

The Consular Post

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL: AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND



LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY EDITION

Things have changed since many of us were in school in the 1950's and 60's. In those days, we celebrated a holiday on the specific day; things also varied more state-by-state. There was no President's Day on the middle Monday of February – February 22 was George Washington's Birthday, period, for all the people and all the states.

Where I grew up, Decatur, Illinois, Lincoln lore was everything, and between my 9th and 13th years was the Centennial of the Civil War, so you couldn't avoid Lincoln if you tried. In fact, Decatur was the Lincoln family's first home in Illinois, and the Greanias family restaurant was the Lincoln Square Café – right where North, South, East, and West Main Streets all came together in the very center of town – and right across the street from a statue of the Railsplitter himself (pictured here), commemorating the spot where he gave his very first political speech as a young man.

Two anecdotes come quickly to mind from there. My grandfather and his brothers had operated the Lincoln Square Café from the 1910's, and it had always been a strictly 24-hour-a-day restaurant, never closing its doors. During World War II, austerity measures required all businesses to shut down a certain number of hours every day, and the Greanias boys had no key to the front door. So they had to bring in a locksmith to rig up a chain and padlock from the outside, just to comply with Federal law!



Other restaurants and ventures came and went through the years for these four immigrant boys from Greece, but the Lincoln Square Café always prospered, until the biggest fire in Decatur history burned down the whole block in 1960. The name Lincoln was magic to them, and they attached it to whatever enterprise they could. Cigar-smokers all, they even started a cigar factory in Decatur between the World Wars, and called them Lincoln cigars. And then they sent their salesmen out, into Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and points south. Having grown up in Greece, where political and historical passions ran in different directions, they just weren't aware that Lincoln wasn't as popular a name in the American South as it was with them. And nobody told them. Not only didn't they sell many cigars, but Pappou told me they didn't even get all their salesmen back.

One more story. Lincoln and high school basketball were our two local passions in those days. (Sadly, that has changed a lot.) We impressionable kids tied a lot of who we were into those rich sources of inspiration. When I was in law school, I worked one summer as a soccer coach for the Decatur Park District. One of the recreation supervisors was a boyhood hero of mine, who had played on the last Decatur team to win the Illinois State high school basketball championship. Visiting his office one time, I saw a single, handwritten note taped to the wall. Here is what it said: "I shall prepare myself, and then perhaps my chance will come. – Abraham Lincoln." I had never read it before, but I have never forgotten it. Of all Lincoln's famous lines, that is the one I hold closest to my heart.

It gives me hope still, for me, my sons, our country, and all our fellow citizens. As does the whole life and example of Abraham Lincoln. Please tell someone you know something about him today. There is no better way to celebrate the man who saved the Union, and who "now belongs to the ages." Happy Lincoln's Birthday!

Nick Greanias, United States Consul.

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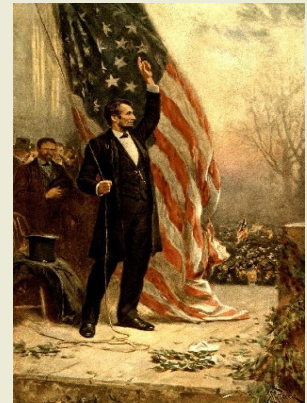


The United States Consulate General in Auckland will be holding a workshop on absentee voting for United States Citizens who will be present in New Zealand at the next U.S.

General Election. This will be run by members of the Federal Voting Assistance Voting Program (FVAP) <http://fvap.gov/>.

The workshop will take place in June, 2010. It has been suggested that we contact groups that have ongoing contact with American Citizens in order to gauge how many people would attend and the size of the premises we would require.

If you or your organization are interested in attending please respond to: aucklandacs@state.gov

**INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) FORMS ON LINE**

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax forms for preparing annual tax returns are available online at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>.

Please note that the U.S. Consulate General cannot provide assistance in preparing tax returns. We also no longer stock or provide tax forms, because all these are now available on line. Your taxpayer queries should be directed to the IRS using the information at www.irs.gov. For more information on U.S. taxation, including exchange rates, and US tax specialists in New Zealand, please consult: <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/irs.html>

The exchange rate for 2009 is: **.6356** (\$NZ to \$US) or 1.5989 (\$US to \$NZ). These rates are found on the historical tables of www.oanda.com as referred to by the IRS.

**SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM ONLINE REGISTRATION**

If you're a male U.S. citizen, age 18 through 25, and are living OUTSIDE the United States, you can register with Selective Service on line: <http://www.sss.gov/>.

If you are unable to register online, or you receive an error message, you will be directed to a registration form which you may print out, complete, sign, and mail to the Selective Service System.

EARLY SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION: Now, if you are a male who is at least 17 years and 3 months old, you may complete this form to submit your registration information. The information will be held on file and processed automatically when you are within 30 days of your 18th birthday, at which time we will mail confirmation to you. **PLEASE NOTE:** A valid Social Security Number is required for online registration.

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THANK YOU!

We'd like to give a big "thank you" for all the positive feedback we've received regarding the first edition of the 'Consular Post.' Your comments and suggestions don't go unnoticed. Bearing that in mind, here's your chance to tell us what you would like to see in further editions.

We would like to designate a section in future editions for your questions. While we cannot comment on personal cases like Dear Abby does, we will do our best to provide answers that are of general interest and applicability. Please email your questions to aucklandacs@state.gov. Our next edition is due out July 2nd, our Independence Day edition, natch!

**U.S. CONSULAR OFFICER TO VISIT WELLINGTON
REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD AND PASSPORT INTERVIEWS**

Mr. Nicholas J. Greanias, United States Consul, will be available in Wellington on Tuesday, February 23rd, from 1pm - 4pm, and Wednesday, February 24th from 9am - 4pm, to accept Passport and Consular Report of Birth Abroad applications from American Citizens who would normally need to apply in person at the Consulate General in Auckland: e.g., minors and first-time passport applications.

If you wish to make an appointment, please telephone the Consulate General in Auckland on: 09 303-2724 ext: 2800, 2842, 2848, 2856, or email us at aucklandacs@state.gov

CONSULAR OUTREACH VISITS

The American Citizen Services section conducts visits to Wellington and Christchurch to provide Passport and Birth Abroad Registration that cannot be performed through the mail. Subject to workload, demand, and funding, we try to visit Christchurch and Wellington twice a year each. While we are committed to trying to provide this service, various constraints may delay or restrict these visits from time to time.

NEW APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR U.S. CITIZEN SERVICES AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL, AUCKLAND

On Tuesday, February 2nd we went live on an appointment system for American Citizens Services. This has proven to be successful for both visitors to the Consulate General and for the ACS section. Feedback has been positive!

The system allows you to schedule your own appointment in a time slot that suits you. The process takes just five minutes! Appointments will be needed for all passport services and Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) applications. Appointments will be available Monday – Friday 8am – 11.45am.

You can make your appointment now by visiting the ACS page on our website:

<http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/appointments2.html>

OUR CONTACT INFO AT U.S. CITIZEN SERVICES

Private Bag 92022
Auckland 1142

Level 3, Citigroup Building
23 Customs Street E.
Auckland 1010

Ph: +64-9-303-2724 extn: 2800
Fax: +64-9-366-0870
Email: aucklandacs@state.gov
Web: <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov>

EMERGENCY SERVICE for American citizen emergencies only: Mon – Fri, 7.30am – 4pm call +64-9-303-2724 extn: 2900. Afterhours call +64-4-462-6000 (You will be asked to leave a message for the duty officer to return your call).

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ONLINE TRAVEL REGISTRATION



The Department of State recently launched an **Online Travel Registration Web Site:** <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>. As U.S. citizens you can use it to record your foreign travel and residence information. We can use this information to communicate with you, or assist you in an emergency, and we strongly recommend you register yourself and your family. Even if you've already given your information to us at the Consulate, please do re-register online and update your information. The data you provide is completely secure. It is held behind Department of State (DoS) firewalls, accessed only by cleared personnel in Embassies, Consulates, and DoS, and releasable only under provisions of the Privacy Act.



**Homeland
Security**

MOVING BACK TO THE U.S. AND NEED TO FILE FOR YOUR SPOUSE TO ACCOMPANY YOU?

As a U.S citizen, you need to file an I-130 Petition for an Immigrant Visa for your spouse. You can file it with us only if you live in New Zealand or the rest of the Auckland Consular District, and have been here for at least 6 months (and not just on tourist visas). You can get the initial forms and instructions to start the immigrant visa process by calling 0900 87 847 (a pay service). Your non-citizen spouse can start the process by mail if you are outside Auckland. However, eventually the I-130 petition must be filed in person by you—it **cannot** be filed by mail. You can file at the Consulate General on weekdays between 8-9 am.

UPDATE FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS ENTERING THE U.S.

As of April 30, 2010 ALL visa applicants are required to fill in the [online application form \(DS-160\)](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/forms/forms_4230.html). Once completed, the information in the DS-160 will be electronically transmitted. The applicant must then print the confirmation page that includes some biographical information and a bar code confirmation number. Applicants must bring the DS-160 Confirmation Page to their interview. http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/forms/forms_4230.html

*2010 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND CLOSURES

The Consulate General observes all U.S. and New Zealand public holidays. We're also close the last Wednesday of each month. These are the public holidays remaining in 2010 on which we'll be closed.

Mon, Feb. 15th	Presidents' Day (US)	Fri, Apr 2	Good Friday (NZ)
Mon, Apr 5	Easter Monday (NZ)	Mon, May 31	Memorial Day (US)
Mon, Jun 7	Queen's Birthday (NZ)	Mon, Jul 5	Substitute for Independence Day –Sunday July 4th (US)
Mon, Sep 6	Labor Day (US)	Mon, Oct 11	Columbus Day (US)
Mon, Oct 25	Labor Day (NZ)	Thu, Nov 11	Veterans Day (US)
Thu, Nov 25	Thanksgiving Day (US)	Fri, Dec 24	Substitute for Christmas Day (US)
Mon/Tue Dec 27/28	Substitute for Christmas and Boxing Day (NZ)	Fri, Dec 31	Substitute for New Years day 2011 (US)

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY EDITION

Among the many remarkable things about Abraham Lincoln is that he was completely self-educated. Nevertheless, no American has ever left behind more passages from a pen that stir the heart, invigorate the soul, challenge the mind, and embolden people's right action. Some are here just below. As long as we value freedom and public responsibility, Abraham Lincoln's leadership "shall not perish from the earth."

As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.

1858

A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe the government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved - I do not expect the house to fall - but I do expect it will cease to be divided.

1858

You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.

1858

Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.

First Inaugural Address — 1861.

That we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Gettysburg Address — 1863.

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in: to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to peace among ourselves, and with all nations.

Second Inaugural Address — 1865.